

HOUSE BILL 568
By Maddox

AN ACT to designate a certain bridge in Weakley County as the
"Lewis Garner Memorial Bridge".

WHEREAS, from time to time, this General Assembly has seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those exemplary public servants who during their lifetimes worked with purpose and commitment to ensure the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, the late Lewis C. Garner of Weakley County was most assuredly one such sterling citizen; and

WHEREAS, Lewis Garner was elected Tax Assessor by the good people of Weakley County and served with distinction in that office for eight productive years from 1964 to 1972; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garner also served Weakley County with integrity and acumen as a County Commissioner and Magistrate for eighteen outstanding years; and

WHEREAS, Lewis Garner was a dedicated family man, being married to Mary Coleman Garner for over fifty-seven years; he had great love and took great pride in his children: Phyllis Collins, Wanda Powell, Brenda Williams, Donna Bates and Van Garner and his thirteen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Lewis Garner was a devoted church leader, faithfully attending the Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church near Dresden, where he served as song director for twenty-nine years; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Garner made his greatest contributions to his fellow man through gospel singing. He either led the singing or sang in a group for hundreds of funeral services; and

WHEREAS, he sang bass for the Happy Five Quartet for thirty years, and the quartet sang on the McKenzie Radio Station for most of these thirty years on a Sunday morning program. The group also sang at benefits, homecomings, and special events all over the county; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his meritorious service to gospel music, Mr. Garner was awarded the West Tennessee Quartet Convention Award posthumously in November of 1995; and

WHEREAS, he served astutely as President of the Weakley County Singing Convention in 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1990 and Vice President of the Tennessee Gospel Singing Convention in 1991; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garner also served on the Weakley County Nursing Home Committee for many years, and he felt that this was his greatest service as a county official; and

WHEREAS, the Weakley County Board of Commissioners has expressed a desire to name a certain bridge near Mr. Garner's home to honor this exceptional gentleman's indelible legacy of effective public service; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly always endeavors to comply with the wishes of local governments on matters of local concern whenever it is feasible to do so; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the bridge that spans the Middle Fork of the Obion River on State Route 54 in Weakley County is hereby designated as the "Lewis Garner Memorial Bridge" in appreciation of a life spent in faithful service to his fellow citizens.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such bridge as the "Lewis Garner Memorial Bridge".

SECTION 3. The erection of signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.